ial No.: 10/605,891 --1--

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No.: BUR920030033US2

Howard S. Landis

Serial No.: 10/605,891

Group Art Unit: 2815

Filed: November 4, 2003

Examiner: Nguyen, Joseph H.

DUMMY METAL FILL SHAPES FOR IMPROVED RELIABILITY OF HYBRID

OXIDE/LOW-K DIELECTRICS

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2004, Applicants elect Species I, Claims 1-17 and 30-31, without traverse.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in a dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Applicants believe that no extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required at this time. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our International Business Machines Corporation's deposit account No. 09-0456 (IBM-Essex Junction).